

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicacy of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work and, if necessary, fight to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District were recognized during the 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 17, 2000, at the Genesis Center in Gary, Indiana. In the past year, these individuals have, in their own ways, acted with courage, met challenges, and used their abilities to reach goals and enhance their communities.

I would like to recognize Tolleston Junior High School students: Kenneth Alford; Antoinette Correa; William Gonzalez; Brian Henderson; Carl Johnson; LaTasha LeFlore; Brannon Smith; Whitney Sullivan; Amanda Bouleware; Tiffany Finch; Kyle Hargrove; Floyd Hobson; Breon Jones; Ekene Onwuika; Mason Smith; Montreca Walker; and Andrew Binder. These students are members of the Tolleston Junior High School Spell Bowl Team, which won its sixth consecutive State Spell Bowl Championship. The team's success is also a credit to the outstanding ability and leadership of its teachers. In particular, Margaret Hymes and Janice Williams should be commended for the devotion they have demonstrated as coaches for the Tolleston Junior High Spell Bowl Team. Additionally, Tolleston Principal Lucille Upshaw and Dr. Mary Guinn, Gary Superintendent of Schools, should be recognized for their support. The accomplishments of these outstanding individuals are a reflection of their hard work and dedication to scholarship. Their scholastic effort and rigorous approach to learning have made them the best in the state. They have also brought pride to themselves, their families, their school and their communities. For this great achievement, they will be honored with the 2000 "Marcher's Award".

Though very different in nature, the achievement of all these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr.

King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. They set goals and worked to achieve them. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our other colleagues to join me in commending their initiative, determination and dedication.

HONORING GUSTAVO HEREDIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man that has gone to great lengths to provide service to his community.

Mr. Gustavo Heredia has created a program, "How to Live in America," that teaches Spanish speaking people basic rules and customs practiced in the United States. Classes offered by the program include: the rights and responsibilities of owning a car; domestic violence prevention; and privileges and responsibilities as immigrants.

By helping to increase awareness of these customs and laws, the program helps the legal process by reducing repeat offenders. Oftentimes, people that are not originally from the United States, or those who do not speak English, break the law unintentionally because they do not understand the laws. Gustavo's program has been included as part of sentencing in several counties across Colorado. Gustavo stresses that the purpose of the class is to inform, rather than lecture, people on how to live their lives. There has been zero repeat offenses committed by program participants.

Gustavo, who recently became a United States citizen, also serves as a court interpreter for Pitkin and Eagle Counties and various law firms.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to commend Gustavo for all of his hard work and his commitment to making Colorado a better and safer place to live.

IN HONOR OF THIS YEAR'S "IRELAND'S 32" MILLENNIUM HONOREE, MR. BENJAMIN PURNELL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin Purnell of Bayonne, NJ, on being named one of this year's "Ireland's 32" Millennium honorees.

Mr. Purnell's community service efforts in Bayonne began in 1972, when he joined the Omega Lodge No. 64, where he has served

as secretary and worshipful master, the highest office in the lodge. Through the lodge, Mr. Purnell organized many projects addressing the specific needs and concerns of children and young adults. In an effort to instill a sense of community, as well as to provide young people with a safe haven, Mr. Purnell spearheaded the lodge's block parties, Halloween parties, and its annual Christmas party.

For more than 12 years Mr. Purnell has served as president of the Bayonne Youth Center. At the center, he has provided guidance, leadership, and friendship to many of the city's young people. Mr. Purnell has been instrumental in creating the programs necessary to benefit the young people of the community, including the Youth of the Month Program, the summer camp, an after-school program, computer and cooking classes, and day-care services.

In addition, Mr. Purnell has remained very active in the Wallace Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, serving as superintendent of the Sunday School, co-chair of the board of trustees, director of the junior ushers, treasurer of the senior ushers board, secretary of the Men's Club, and member of the James T. Gregory Male Chorus. Mr. Purnell has also served as secretary of the Bayonne Branch NAACP, member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and as planning committee member of the B21C for the city of Bayonne.

Because of his continued commitment to community service, Mr. Purnell has received numerous awards, including the Andrew Young Black Male Achievement Award, the Omega Lodge Service Award, the Bayonne Branch NAACP Community Service Award, and the N.C.C.J. Brotherhood Award.

Born in Berlin, MD, Mr. Purnell graduated from Worcester High School in Snow Hill, MD and has been a resident of Bayonne for more than 30 years. Mr. Purnell is married to Laura Mumford. The couple has two sons, Angelo and Benjamin, one daughter, Lolita, and six grandchildren.

For his unyielding dedication and service to the Bayonne community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Benjamin Harrison Purnell. He has truly earned his place among this year's honorees.

WHY TAX DEDUCTIONS DON'T HELP THOSE WHO MOST NEED HELP

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Patients' Bill of Rights, the Republicans insisted on passing an unpaid-for set of tax deductions which they say will help improve access to

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